

U.S. Department  
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United States  
Coast Guard



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10 September 1996

From: Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District  
To: Distribution

Subj: PRESSURE VESSEL INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS AND RELIEF VALVE  
TESTING FOR FOREIGN FLAG MODUS OPERATING ON THE OUTER  
CONTINENTAL SHELF

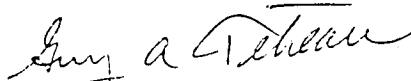
Ref: (a) NVIC 3-88  
(b) 46 CFR 61.10  
(c) 33 CFR 143.207

1. The intent of references (a) and (c) is that foreign flag drilling units operating on the Outer Continental Shelf be inspected to ensure that they meet a level of safety equivalent to U.S. flag units. With the introduction of new regulations in reference (b), the interval for internal examination of pressure vessels has changed to twice in five years with no more than three years between any examinations.

2. All drilling units operating on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf in the Eighth Coast Guard District shall have pressure vessels internally examined in accordance with the intervals in reference (b). The only exception to this policy is for drilling units issued a Letter of Compliance (LOC) based upon acceptance of their flag state administration's regulations which have been determined to be equivalent to U.S. regulations in reference (c). If the requirements of that vessel's administration are more stringent than the U.S. regulations in reference (b), then the pressure vessels are to be examined in accordance with the more stringent standards. All other requirements for pressure vessels in reference (a) apply.

3. In accordance with reference (b), pressure vessel relief valves are to be tested at intervals not to exceed two years.

4. LOCs shall specify the date of the prior, last, and next due pressure vessel internal exam date. They shall also include the last test date for pressure vessel relief valves.

  
G. A. TETREAU  
By direction

Dist: All D8 Gulf Region MSOs and MSU